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Assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy

UPI-180

(SHAW)

NEW ORLEANS--PERRY RAYMOND RUSSO, THE STATE'S STAR WITNESS AGAINST CLAY L. SHAW, TODAY REPEATED HIS STORY OF HEARING SHAW PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, BUT ADMITTED UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION IT COULD HAVE BEEN "A BULL SESSION."

RUSSO, POINTING TO THE 55-YEAR-OLD RETIRED NEW ORLEANS BUSINESSMAN, IDENTIFIED HIM AS THE "CLEM BERTRAND" HE HEARD DISCUSSING HOW TO ASSASSINATE KENNEDY IN 1963 WITH LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND DAVID W. FERRIE.

"IS IT NOT TRUE THAT THE CONVERSATION COULD HAVE BEEN A BULL SESSION JUST AS WELL AS SOMETHING SERIOUS?" DEFENSE ATTORNEY F. IRVIN DYMOND ASKED HIM.

"YES, SIR," RUSSO REPLIED.

HE ALSO AGREED WITH DYMOND THAT FERRIE, A FORMER AIRLINE PILOT WHO DIED OF A CEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE IN 1967, WAS "A LITTLE ON THE CRAZY SIDE."

RUSSO ORIGINALLY TESTIFIED AT SHAW'S PRELIMINARY HEARING IN 1967. HE GENERALLY REPEATED THE TESTIMONY MONDAY.

HE PICTURED SHAW AS A DOMINATING PERSONALITY OBSESSED WITH KILLING KENNEDY OVER "THE CUBA THING" AND AS A "PARADOX OF A PERSON."

"HE WORE BAGGY AND DIRTY CLOTHES FREQUENTLY, BUT HE WAS SHARP," RUSSO SAID. "A MAN WHO COULD SPEAK 11 LANGUAGES AND WHO HAD FIVE DEGREES SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO BETTER. HE WAS TURNED TOWARD THE FANTASTIC."

"DO YOU MEAN FERRIE WAS A LITTLE ON THE CRAZY SIDE?" DYMOND ASKED.

"I ALWAYS THOUGHT SO," RUSSO SAID.

ASST. DIST. ATTY. ANTHONY SCIAMBGA TODAY READ INTO THE RECORD A MEMORANDUM WHICH HE SAID COVERED HIS FIRST QUESTIONING OF RUSSO ON FEB. 25, 1967.

SCIAMBGA SAID HE SHOWED RUSSO A PICTURE OF SHAW AND RUSSO IDENTIFIED HIM.

THE MEMORANDUM MADE NO MENTION OF THE MEETING IN FERRIE'S APARTMENT BUT RUSSO TESTIFIED AT LENGTH ABOUT IT TODAY.

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